

Founded by local businessmen, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club was chartered on December 14, 1924. Over its 90 years, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club has grown in outreach and in membership. Today, its 42 members continue to carry out the mission of Lions Club International, serving its local community, the State of New Jersey, our nation and the world. Its efforts provide a range of assistance, including health programs, youth programs, environmental programs, and disaster relief. It has also sponsored Lions Clubs in nearby New Jersey communities as well as the local Leo Club, which was one of the first Leo Clubs established in New Jersey.

The Atlantic Highlands Lions Club has been providing active community volunteer work since its inception. Its members promote the Lions Club International mission to improve eye health and sight, providing free eye exams, eye treatments and surgery to local residents. They also uphold the mission to provide disaster relief, supporting recovery efforts in Indonesia, Haiti, Honduras and the United States, including New Jersey and its own community in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Among many other community service efforts, the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club provides scholarships to local students, has taken part in the Lions Club International project to plant one million trees globally, honored our nation's veterans through the purchase of a state highway construction project that would become a median in their honor (which the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club still maintains and enhances), helped develop the Atlantic Highlands Harbor, and provided evacuation assistance from New York City after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Atlantic Highlands Lions Club also pays the club membership dues of a member of the United States Coast Guard and encouraged Lions Club International to offer membership discounts to members of the military.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Atlantic Highlands Lions Club on its 90th anniversary and thanking its members for their dedication to local, statewide, national and international community service.

GREG KOMESHOK

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Greg Komeshok's leadership and dedication to the community of Passaic and the citizens of New Jersey. To honor his years of commitment, his friends, family, and colleagues joined together in October to celebrate his amazing career.

Greg Komeshok son of John and Emily Komeshok, a life-long resident of Passaic, New Jersey was born on March 23, 1947. A product of the Passaic School District, Greg graduated from Holy Rosary grammar school and Passaic High School where he played on both the basketball and baseball teams. After high school, Greg went on to further his education where he earned his Bachelor's in Industrial Arts and a Master's in Administration and Supervision from Montclair State University. Upon achieving both of his degrees, Greg

became a teacher at Passaic High School, later becoming the Principal at the Learning Center Elementary School in Passaic. Greg also held various administrative positions throughout the Passaic Board of Education, before becoming the Supervisor of Physical Education and Health, and later appointed to become the Director of Athletics.

Greg's achievements and passion in serving his community has led him to hold various leadership roles within his community. After being a lifetime member of the Holy Rosary Young Men's Club, he became its President. Later, he went on to serve as the President of the Passaic Boys and Girls Club. Through his leadership and dedication, he was able to establish the annual outdoor Jimmy Sturr Concert in Passaic which is now in its eleventh year. Greg's devotion to the community and to the youth led him to the Clifton Little League and Babe Ruth League where he served as Coach. Later, he went on to become the General Manager/Coach of the Wayne Post 174 American Legion Baseball League, then becoming the President of the Bergen Area American Legion Baseball League.

His service to his community even led him to pursue public office. In 1968, he became a Member of the Passaic Redevelopment Agency; later in his career in 1972 he was selected to become the Chairman of the Democratic Party in the City of Passaic. Then in 1976, he was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in New York City. In 1978, Greg was given the opportunity to serve his State when he was appointed to the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, where he served as Commissioner. In 1983 he was elected to the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders and later in 1985 was selected to become the Freeholder Director. In 1984 Greg became a member of the Camp Hope Commission and the Passaic County Community College-Board of School Estimates.

Greg is married to his wife Susan, and they have two sons Kevin and Christopher.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the services of individuals like Mr. Greg Komeshok.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mr. Komeshok's family, friends, and all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing Greg Komeshok for his dedication to his family and his nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE "JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD POST OFFICE"

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as you know, here in Washington we have the unique opportunity to work for the citizens of this great nation and provide positive change in the lives of many. Together we work for the good of our communities, and in the process we cross paths with some remarkable leaders.

Today I am introducing a bill that will recognize the life of one of those very special lead-

ers of our time, the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, by designating a facility of the United States Postal Service in my district as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office."

Rep. Millender-McDonald was a pillar in many of the communities I represent. She was a resilient public servant who was deeply loved by her community first as an educator, then as program coordinator for a nonprofit fighting gender issues, and finally as a beloved elected official. Undaunted by the work to be done, Rep. Millender-McDonald took charge of her opportunity to serve and became the first African American woman to be named Chairwoman of the House Committee on Administration. She was also an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus and served over a decade in the House of Representatives.

An exemplary piece of her legacy was her work to better the lives of not just those here at home but internationally as well. Her work to aid victims of genocide and human trafficking serves a testament to her dedication to creating a better world. Millender-McDonald worked tirelessly for her constituents taking only a week of leave before she succumbed to cancer.

By designating a United States Postal Service facility in my district as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office," we honor an exemplary woman with an incredible public service record that I hope will further serve as inspiration for the community which I serve—the same community which so revered her.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLUMBIA CLUB

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute an extraordinary Hoosier institution, The Columbia Club, which celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. I wish to express my admiration and appreciation for the Club and its members' service to our community, state, and country.

The Columbia Club was originally formed in 1889 by local prominent Republicans as the Harrison Marching Society to support the presidential campaign of the last Hoosier president, Benjamin Harrison. After the election, the Society moved into a clubhouse on Monument Circle and changed its name to the Columbia Club to continue operating as a private club. As its membership grew, the Columbia Club became the premier private club in Indianapolis. No longer a partisan club; the Columbia Club welcomes Hoosiers of all political stripes and affiliations as members to share in fellowship.

The Columbia Club's members can also join associations within the Club. It hosts the Columbian Business Network, Columbian Veteran's Association, Columbia Club Devine Dames—a chapter of the National Red Hat Society, and the Harrison Society—the Club's premier group for young professionals.

In 1925, the current home of the Columbia Club was built on Indianapolis' famed Monument Circle on the very location that the original building was once located. In 1983, the current structure was added to the National

Register of Historic Places. Legend indicates that the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, met at the club to discuss construction of the famed track. It also served as host to discussions that eventually brought the NFL's Colts to Indianapolis.

The Columbia Club has hosted every Republican President since Benjamin Harrison while in office or as a candidate. Thousands of business leaders and politicians have been members of the Club as have famous Hoosiers like musician Hoagy Carmichael and Impressionist T.C. Steele. Each year the Club holds its annual Beefsteak Dinner, of which I had the honor to keynote on October 7, of this year.

Congratulations to the Columbia Club and all of its current and former members for the 125 years of excellence in our Indianapolis community.

HONORING MR. ALBERT A. CURTIS, JR.

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character and determination, Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County. He is the son of Lucille and Albert Curtis, Sr.

As a child: Like his father, Albert A. Curtis, Sr., he was a shrewd manager of a few assets. But here is how he got started. This was during a time when racism was considered acceptable. Albert, Sr. saw no racism in money. And as a little boy Albert, Jr. learned that as he watched his father conduct business with Blacks, Whites and everyone else. Albert Sr. had several mantra's his son would often hear him say like, "A lil negotiation don't hurt, but don't compromise your beliefs and dignity." or "A bicycle of your own is better than someone else's Cadillac . . . always work hard cause nobody is going to give you anything" and "Sometimes you got to lose to win."

Time to grow-up: Albert, Jr.'s mother, Lucille died suddenly when he was eight (8) years old. But because of his strong belief in family and deep love for his wife, Albert, Sr. felt that was all gone when she died. He was broken hearted and turned to alcohol to escape the reality of that inevitable change. Albert, Jr. saw his father lose his will to live and began losing the businesses he had worked so hard to build. Those businesses also provided the financial support for the family. The family began moving around from place to place until Mattie Curtis took the family in, which is Albert Jr.'s grandmother. The family began to hire out, young Albert, Jr. to work on other farms for money and to work odd jobs. Unfortunately, young Albert remembers how his father would take the money from him to buy alcohol instead of support the family. Rather than defy his father in any way, he simply quit school to increase his work hours, believing he could continue giving his father the "little" money and the extra money he would make by increasing his hours, he thought some money would go to the family. This was a life changing decision for a young boy—who didn't truly understand.

His schoolmates started seeing him around and they began to make fun of Albert, Jr. with words like "He done quit school and ain't gon' mount to nothin' . . . plus he smells like horses and mules." Well, Albert just kept on because his father's words and work ethics were deep inside of him, "Never give up and make people's ideas of you a lie!" As he grew older, people began to notice him never wavering, never quitting, steadfast, and focused, but they just didn't see anything—material that is.

Time to start a family: In 1964, Albert, Jr. met and married Alma "Emma" Jean Blackburn. She was his soul-mate and helpmate—heaven sent. She was strong in areas he was weak. He was hard working and could make money while she was strong minded and book smart (as they called it). Emma managed the books, opened up bank accounts, paid the bills . . . she took care of the family business. Soon the couple had acquired enough money and assets that they were able to purchase their own home and leave Grandma Curtis' home.

Albert, Jr. then with the support of this wife, set out to re-acquire all the land and holding his father had lost. He began buying land back from his family members (e.g., aunts and uncles and anyone who had his daddy's land). He was the only one who had the money to do this. Eventually Albert, Jr. was able to buy back all the property and land his father had owned but two (2) pieces of property.—Now, it's not known of anyone else accomplishing this, but Albert deserves being recognized and applauded.

But wait, this story is not over . . . Remember, Albert, Jr. was never wavering, never quitting, always steadfast and focused, and didn't understand because they just didn't see anything—material that is. Well, by now he managed to acquire a wife, home of his own, money in the bank, all his daddy's previously owned property (but 2 pieces) and now property of his own. Albert continued until he was able to acquire 52 residential properties, commercial properties, more acres of land, several types of businesses of his own (e.g., plumbing, and financing for other small business owners) and work a full-time job for the City of Public Works in the community he lived.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the legacy of Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

### IN RECOGNITION OF BARBRA SIPERSTEIN

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbra "Babs" Siperstein as she is honored with the Stonewall Legacy Award by The Pride Network at their New Jersey Leadership Awards Dinner. It is truly a fitting tribute to recognize Ms. Siperstein as we celebrate LGBT History Month as she has played such a vital role in the LGBT movement.

Born Barry Siperstein, Barbra Siperstein acknowledged her true identity when she was nearly 50 years old. In 2007, she legally changed her name and the following year

changed her Hebrew name to Baila Chaya in a ceremony at her synagogue, Congregation Beth Mordecai in Perth Amboy.

Through her own journey, Ms. Siperstein became a pioneer of transgender equality. She is a political activist and a staunch advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) causes. In 2009 she became the first openly transgender member confirmed to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Additionally, she was appointed to the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission and served as Vice Chair of Garden State Equality. She has also been a member of the DNC's executive committee, deputy vice chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and president of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats.

Ms. Siperstein was married for 34 years to the late Carol Siperstein, who stayed by her side until she lost a sudden battle with cancer in 2001. Together, they had a daughter and two sons. In addition to her activism, Barbra is a United States Army Veteran and a small-business owner.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbra Siperstein on receiving the prestigious Stonewall Legacy Award and thanking her for her continuous efforts on behalf of the LGBT community.

### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDUARDO POSADA

### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Eduardo Posada. Born in Puerto Rico on February 8, 1929, his father was a Colombian native and his mother was Puerto Rican. He spent his early years in New York City until 1935, when his family moved back to Puerto Rico. Except for two brief stints back in New York, Ed stayed in Puerto Rico where he obtained his BA from the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico (now Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico) in 1949.

Ed worked for two years in Puerto Rico as a secondary school teacher. He married Urania Feliciano and had a son, Luis. The family then moved to New York, where Ed joined the U.S. Air Force. While serving at Governor's Island, New York, Ed and his wife had a second son, Danny. In June, 1955 Ed was separated from the Air Force as a sergeant and assigned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In 1956, he was found unfit for active duty and discharged from the service due to disabilities.

Ed went to work as a secondary school teacher and completed his MA at Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1959. Ed eventually became Assistant Dean for Boys at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

The family next moved to Miami where Ed continued to teach until 1987, when he retired. While in Miami, he had the honor of being part of the newly formed United Teachers of Dade and served as vice president for the group. In 1987, Ed retired from teaching and moved to Orlando with his wife.

Ed has since been an active member of the American Legion, Korean War Veterans, and